REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 30, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 74-75, 77-80, 82-83, 85-88, 90-91, 93-96, 98-99, 101-104, and 106-109 are now pending. No claims stand allowed.

Claims 74, 82, 90, and 98 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes may be found in the specification, page 21, paragraph 38. The amendment also contains minor changes of a clerical nature in claims 80, 88, 96, and 104. No "new matter" has been added by the amendment.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 74-75, 79, 82-83, 87, 90-91, 95, 98-99, and 103 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. U.S. 6,076,407) in view of Williams (U.S. Pat. No. U.S. 6,151,630), among which claims 74, 82, 90, and 98 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to M.P.E.P. §2143,

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or

> references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.

Furthermore, the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner substantially maintains the previous rejections and allegations with respect to Chen and Williams. The Examiner admits that Chen does not teach "determining if a request contains a defined pattern" (Final Office Action, page 3), but further alleges that Williams teaches "determining if the first data request matches a pattern of request defined in a memory" (citing column 4, lines 11-29, column 3, lines 26-27, and column 4, lines 34-39 thereof). In the Final Office Action, the Examiner specifically equates a copy of records **200** of all pages **107** of all sequences **108-109** loaded into allocated memory **117** in Williams's session-establishment process (column 4, lines 11-29 thereof) with the claimed "pattern of request defined in a memory." The Applicant respectfully disagrees for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 74 defines a method for predictively responding to a network management data request. The claimed method comprises (a) receiving a first network management data request, (b) determining if said first network management data request matches a pattern of request defined and stored in advance in a memory, the pattern including one or more expected management data requests, (c) determining if data responsive to said

first network management data request is contained in a cache of prefetched network management data if said first network management data request matches a pattern defined in said memory, (d) sending a response including said data responsive to said first network management data request, if said data responsive to said first network management data request is contained in said cache and if said first network management data request matches a pattern defined in said memory, and (e) collecting, if said first network management data request matches a pattern defined in said memory, data responsive to any remaining network management data requests in the matched pattern, as recited in claim 74 as amended.

Williams relates to non-redundant browsing of a sequence **108** or **109** of web pages **107** (column 3, lines 1-3 thereof). Each page **107** in the sequence has a record **200** which includes a Universal Resource Locator (URL), a corresponding sequential index value (indicating the position of the page **107** in the sequence), a flag (indicating whether the page **107** has been viewed), and an optional page description (column 3, lines 1-24, FIG. 2 of Williams). The author of pages **107** defines the sequence **108** or **109** and record **200** for each page in the definition process (column 3, line 26 to column 4, line 8 of Williams). It should be noted that Williams only teaches requests for viewing a World Wide Web pages, not requests for network management data.

In Williams, when a user first sends a request for page **107** (more precisely, one of the pages **107** in the sequence) to server **102**, a copy of records **200** of all pages **107** of all sequences **108-109** is loaded into allocated memory **117**, and this copy, not the

original, is used to service the user's page access requests (column 4, lines 9-29 of Williams). Optionally, the corresponding pages **107** are also placed in a cache memory (column 4, lines 29-32 of Williams).

Thus, in Williams, the copy of records **200** (the alleged pattern of request) is only stored in the memory **117** after the first request for page **107** is received. Accordingly, Williams fails to teach or suggest determining if said first network management data request matches a pattern of request defined and stored in advance in a memory, the pattern including one or more expected management data requests (emphasis added), as recited in claim 74.

Accordingly, Chen, whether considered alone or combined with or modified by Williams, does not teach the claimed invention recited in claim 74. Claims 82, 90, and 98, as amended, also include substantially the same distinctive feature as claim 74. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims based on Chen and Williams be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Claims 75, 77-80 and claim 106 depend from claim 74, claims 83, 85-88, and 107 depend from claim 82, claims 91, 93-96, and 08 depend from claim 90, and claims 99,

101-104, and 109 depend from claim 98, and thus include the limitations of the corresponding independent claims. The argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Request for Entry of Amendment

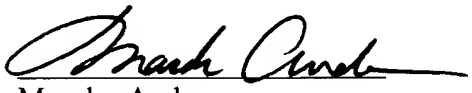
Entry of this Amendment will place the Application either in condition for allowance, or at least, in better form for appeal by narrowing any issues. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: November 1, 2006



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